

Chapter 4: Recommended Actions

During the months of September and October 2004, Nevada Division of State Parks staff conducted a series of four (4) public workshops across the state to develop actions to address the issues identified in the previous chapter. Public workshops were conducted in Carson City, Elko, Ely and Las Vegas.

Each workshop was comprised of a general session open to the public, including federal and state agencies, county, municipal and special districts, American Indian Tribes, interested members of the public, trail users groups or clubs and commercial organizations. Recommended actions were developed and at the conclusion of each workshop, participants were given 10 colored dots to assist in prioritizing the importance of the recommended actions. Participants placed their colored dots on those actions they felt were most important.

This chapter takes the priority issues and presents recommended actions for managers and trail users. The priority recommended actions are from those issues that ranked the highest. These recommended actions reflect statewide priorities; local and regional priorities may differ.

ISSUE #1: LOSS OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO TRAILS

1a. Identify access points, plan for access and acquire easements for trails

- Inventory and map trails and trailheads to identify public access points and make available to agencies involved with land use decisions
- Acquire fee simple title, rights of way and easements to protect existing access points and connections
- Zone for public access; enact access ordinances at the local level
- Develop plans that identify trails, open space and public access points
- Identify Recreational Trails Program projects in local and regional trail plans and open space plans

1b. Coordinate trail access needs with stakeholders

- Improve public awareness and provide information about the benefits of land, easement and rights of way donations
- Work with all stakeholders to promote a common understanding of access problems and trail benefits and to develop solutions
- Coordinate planning efforts between public and agencies; make information concerning public meetings, workshops and planning sessions available to the public

....recreation is a major value of the forests ... the woods and mountains should be enjoyed by their owners, the citizens of the United States.... –JOHN SIEKER, Trees, Yearbook of Agriculture, 1949

National forests exist today because the people want them. To make them accomplish the most good, the people themselves must make clear how they want them run. –GIFFORD PINCHOT, first Chief of the US Forest Service, (1905), 1865—1946

ISSUE #2: LACK OF FUNDING FOR TRAILS

2a. Share resources for trail planning

- Explore alternative funding sources for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and make information available
- Partner with volunteers to complete NEPA compliance documents
- Identify potential funding sources for regional trails planning
- Develop partnerships with volunteer groups to secure grant funding for projects on federally managed public land
- Develop case studies that showcase the planning and development of well designed and managed regional trail systems
- Create clearinghouse for announcing public meetings
- Involve interested stakeholders in the development of regional trail plans

2b. Identify existing and potential new resources to support trails

- Utilize private sector support like endowments and trusts, as well as support from businesses
- Develop list of funding sources with contact information; create trail funding clearinghouse
- Provide grant writing workshops; partner with universities for grant writing assistance

Can anybody remember when the times were not hard and money was not scarce? –

RALPH WALDO EMERSON, US essayist, 1803—82

ISSUE #3: CLOSURE OF TRAILS AND ROADS

3a. Preserve existing trails

- Inventory and protect areas that provide trail experiences and make the information available to trail users, land use managers and decision makers
- Acquire fee simple title, rights of way and easements to protect existing access points and connections

3b. Promote mitigation before closure

- Include trail user input when considering alternatives to closures, mitigate loss of trail opportunities through the creation of new or alternative opportunities
- Educate trail users on trail use etiquette and environmental ethics
- Develop site specific management prescriptions for trail systems that includes signage and maintenance plans

In the land use planning process, the question should not be, should we close an area to ORV use? But—can ORV use, in some form, be permitted on the area? One of the primary questions ... is generally—How much resource impact can we live with in providing for a recreation activity such as ORVs. –USDA FOREST SERVICE, 1974

Concern for the environment and access to parks and open space is not frivolous or peripheral, rather, it is central to the welfare of people body, mind, and spirit. –

LAURANCE ROCKEFELLER, US capitalist & philanthropist, 1910—

ISSUE #4: NOT ENOUGH TRAILS

4a. Increase the quantity and quality of trails in Nevada for multiple trail uses

- Establish connections and linkages between urban communities and rural trail opportunities
- Develop trails and support facilities for specialized trail uses
- Identify and mark trails for different/specialized uses
- Establish long distance trails and connections to them

4b. Inform the public about existing trails

- Develop and provide trail maps
- Use private/public partnerships to develop and distribute trail maps and information to residents and communities

4c. Increase funding devoted to expanding trail opportunities

- Develop regional marketing plans for educating local, state and federal politicians on the value of investing in trails in the state of Nevada

...key factor in the development and planning of most trails is local, grassroots efforts: that is, the citizens who drive the local, state, and federal government to act. Everything from establishing the vision and need for greenways to defining specific trail corridors, to participating in the zoning process, to forming citizen coalitions, to developing guidelines for trail use and access should be within the abilities of each citizen. With broad-based support, the vision of a national system of trails can be realized. –

AMERICAN TRAILS, *Trails for All Americans report, 1990*

ISSUE #5: NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT FACILITIES NEAR TRAILS

5a. Enhance and expand support facilities

- Provide support facilities
- Promote trails that link to communities and existing support facilities
- Develop specialized support facilities and design standards for specific trail uses
- Create ‘Adopt a Trailhead’ program to establish maintenance at trailheads

All other things being equal, choose a john with a view. –COLIN FLETCHER, The New Complete Walker, 1974

ISSUE #6: EROSION AND DETERIORATION OF TRAILS

6a. Use sustainable design techniques for new trail construction

- Design and construct new trails with preventative maintenance standards
- Develop and produce trail design and maintenance training workshops
- Use standardized trail assessment methods to conduct trail condition assessment and determine maintenance needs

6b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets

- Maintain existing trails through volunteers; develop partnerships with volunteers for trail maintenance
- Create 'Adopt a Trail' program to provide maintenance on trails and encourage organized trail user groups and trail users to become more active
- Create an interagency volunteer information clearinghouse to match volunteers with local trail maintenance projects
- Develop clearinghouse for contacting trail managers to report trail maintenance needs

Erosion, whether caused by boots, hooves, or bike tires, is still erosion. –PETER OLIVER, Bicycling: Touring and Mountain Bike Basics, 1995

A slow and steady stream of water will, in time, erode the hardest rock... –DAVID CAMPBELL, If You Don't Know Where You're Going, You'll Probably End Up Somewhere Else, 1974

A trail is as serviceable as its poorest link. –BENTON MACKAYE, An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning, The Journal of the American Institute of Architects, 1921

ISSUE #7: NOT ENOUGH GOOD INFORMATION MATERIAL ABOUT NEVADA TRAILS

7a. Provide current trail information and detailed maps

- Complete statewide trails inventory and produce maps, brochures, etc, with standard symbols
- Provide trail maps with new trail construction and encourage posting of information; provide trail information along trails
- Create statewide website with information about trails in Nevada
- Post updated maps and information at trailheads, visitor centers, and on the Internet
- Provide GPS coordinates on trail maps

We need information, we need sources of information, we need a bibliography of printed [trails] material that is out today. –PHIL LAVELY, Fourth National Trails Symposium, 1977

ISSUE #8: LACK OF TRAIL ETIQUETTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

8a. Expand trail etiquette and environmental ethic resources

- Incorporate trail etiquette and environmental ethic materials into school and youth programs
- Advocate for the motor vehicle industry to practice responsible Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) advertising
- Encourage local media to participate in Public Service Announcements (PSA) such as “Tread Lightly”, “Leave No Trace” and “Pack It In-Pack It Out”

8b. Share use and cooperate on trails

- Mark and sign trails and trailheads with etiquette and environmental ethic information
- Sign multiple use trails with specific yield instructions for trail users
- Provide information about allowed uses on specific trails

If a body takes out to follow a made trail down over the hills, he'd best hold to that trail, for there are not too many ways to go. Most of the trouble a man finds in the mountains is when he tries shortcuts or leaves a known way. –LOUIS L'AMOUR, Treasure Mountain,

Western writer, 1908—88

We can be ethical in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in. –ALDO LEOPOLD, US conservationist, 1887—1948

ISSUE #9: INADEQUATE TRAIL MAINTENANCE

9a. Prioritize reconstruction over new development

- Design and construct new trails with preventative maintenance standards
- Incorporate sustainable design standards to existing trails
- Reconstruct existing trails to meet low maintenance standards

9b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets

- Form partnerships with private sector and public agencies to cooperatively fund trail maintenance projects
- Promote maintenance of existing trails through volunteers; develop partnerships with volunteers for trail maintenance
- Create ‘Adopt a Trail’ program to provide maintenance on trails and encourage organized trail user groups and trail users to become more active
- Create an interagency volunteer information clearinghouse to match volunteers with local trail maintenance projects
- Develop clearinghouse for contacting trail managers to report trail maintenance needs
- Develop case studies that showcase successful trail maintenance program and methods
- Better use of National Trails Day as an opportunity to recognize volunteers and the importance of trail maintenance

9c. Promote and support volunteer trail and trailhead maintenance

- Organize clean up days and create “Adopt a Trail” program to assist agencies’ efforts
- Create an annual award for the best maintained trail/trail system in the state using volunteer assistance

ISSUE #10: TOO MUCH LITTER AND TRASH ALONG TRAILS

10a. Reduce litter and trash on trails and trailheads

- Provide trash receptacles at trailheads and along trails; install convenient and interesting trash and recycling receptacles
- Promote “Pack It In-Pack It Out” with information along trails and at trailheads
- Create education programs that provide information about resource damage due to trash and litter

10b. Enforce/follow rules and regulations

- Enforce current laws
- Create education programs that provide information about current laws and regulations
- Develop clearinghouse for posting current laws and regulations

Let no one say and say it to your shame that all was beauty here until you came. –

AUTHOR unknown

Why do Americans, who love the outdoors so much, do so much to jeopardize its future? Are we oblivious to the insults we scatter in the form of trash along our country roads—or worse yet along trails to our scenic natural sites? How did we ever come to expect others to clean up after us at our campsites? Because we exhibit so little respect for the outdoors, we run the risk of converting our federal, state, and local recreation programs into law enforcement efforts. Enough! We can do better. We need to educate all Americans to their rights to enjoy the outdoors—and their responsibilities to use the outdoors well. –DERRICK CRANDALL, Director, American Recreation Coalition, 1986

ISSUE #11: LACK OF DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ALONG TRAILS AND AT TRAILHEADS

11a. Enhance and expand support facilities

- Provide signage along trails and at trailheads
- Develop statewide directional and regulatory signing standards and standard messages

A trail and its markings do not constitute any intrusion upon naturalness of the forest wilderness. Trails should be marked and maintained in a manner to eliminate the necessity of labor and uncertainty in finding one's route. They should be an open course, a joy for travel. In that manner, without concern for route finding, the traveler will derive full benefit from his surroundings. This is what we have sought to accomplish in our constant and unending emphasis on the indicated standards of Appalachian Trail marking and maintenance. –MYRON AVERY, final report to the Appalachian Trail Conference, 1952

ISSUE #12: LACK OF TRAILS CLOSE TO HOME

12a. Establish trail opportunities close to home

- Coordinate with developers to include trails and public access to adjacent trails within master plans
- Encourage urban to rural linkages and connections

12b. Promote interagency coordination to address regional needs

- Develop regional trail system plans
- Include Recreational Trails Program projects in regional plans
- Inventory existing trails and identify regional needs
- Partner with other agencies to ensure degree of uniformity and quality among trail systems
- Involve the public in trail policy, planning and management decisions
- Develop clearinghouse for public meeting announcements

[The Commission recommended that] all Americans be able to go out their front doors and within fifteen minutes be on trails that wind through their cities, town or villages and brings them back without retracing steps. They could travel across America on trails that connect one community to another and stretch from coast to coast, and from border to border. –PRESIDENT’S COMMISSION ON AMERICANS OUTDOORS, Americans and the Outdoors, 1987

ISSUE #13: TOO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF USERS ON TRAILS

13a. Address user conflicts and safety issues

- Design, designate and manage trails for planned uses
- Use staff and volunteers to patrol high conflict trails

13b. Share use and cooperate on trails

- Post informational signs regarding appropriate trail use at trailheads and along trails
- Promote “Share the Trail” and yield information to reduce conflicts

*Compromise, n. Such an adjustment of conflicting interests as gives each adversary the satisfaction of thinking he has got what he ought not to have, and is deprived of nothing except what was justly his due. – **AMBROSE BIERCE**, *The Devil’s Dictionary*, 1881-1911*

*It is understanding that gives us an ability to have peace. When we understand the other fellow’s viewpoint, and he understands ours, than we can sit down and work out our differences. – **HARRY S. TRUMAN**, Thirty-third US President (1945—53), 1884—1972*

*Recreation is a perpetual battlefield because it is a single word denoting as many diverse things as there are diverse people. One can discuss it only in personal terms. –**ALDO LEOPOLD**, US conservationist, 1887—1948*